

**From:** Scott VandePol  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/22/02 4:42pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern

1. The proposed Microsoft settlement is not fair to the people of the United States. Microsoft will be allowed to print NEW monopoly money to settle its damages arising from the exploitation of the economy through monopoly power (i.e., give away software that costs the company almost nothing for each incremental unit but which is credited towards its damages at wildly overvalued levels due to its monopoly power). It costs microsoft \$0.50 to make distribute a copy of Office software that it sells (only through monopoly power) for \$500. That is monopoly money, and microsoft should not be allowed to settle its debts on this basis.

2. Microsoft proposes to settle its legal debt to the people by extending its monopoly into the only area it does not dominate--the education market. This is insane. This is rewarding a criminal enterprise. If microsoft were to give away software to the education market outside of a settlement agreement ,the government would rightly see this as an attempt to destroy a competitor---yet this is proposed as a settlement for monopolistic practices. Insane!

I am just a citizen who uses computers at home and at work. I do not own any computer stock or work in the industry. Microsoft is clearly the Standard Oil of our time. in 1911 the DOJ had the courage to take on the largest and strongest economic private force in the nation for the sake of the people of the United States. How will history judge the current DOJ in its attempt to protect the people from Microsoft? I think the DOJ should feel the eyes of the future upon it and go for the correct answer that would restore true competition to all areas of the computer industry: break up microsoft. In the long run, only this will restore competition to the marketplace.

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Scott Vande Pol  
Phone: 216-368-1679  
Fax: 216-368-1300  
email: sbv@pop.cwru.edu  
Associate Professor of Pathology  
Department of Pathology, BRB 922  
Case Western Reserve University  
10900 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH. 44106-4943.

